

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1100

To authorize the Commandant of the Coast Guard to issue regulations that require certain pilots on vessels operating in designated waters to carry and utilize a portable electronic device equipped for navigational purposes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Mrs. TAUSCHER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize the Commandant of the Coast Guard to issue regulations that require certain pilots on vessels operating in designated waters to carry and utilize a portable electronic device equipped for navigational purposes, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Vessel Navigation and
5 Safety Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR PILOTS TO CARRY AND UTILIZE**
2 **PORTABLE ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL DE-**
3 **VICE.**

4 The Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C.
5 1221 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 4A
6 the following:

7 **“SEC. 4B. PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE FOR NAVIGA-**
8 **TION PURPOSES.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast
10 Guard may issue regulations that—

11 “(1) require that any pilot licensed under sub-
12 title II of title 46, United States Code, while serving
13 under the authority of that license as pilot on a cov-
14 ered vessel operating in waters designated in the
15 regulation shall carry and utilize a portable elec-
16 tronic device that is—

17 “(A) equipped for navigational purposes;
18 and

19 “(B) capable of being connected to an
20 Automatic Identification System; and

21 “(2) require such pilots to obtain training in
22 the use of such electronic devices, and prescribe re-
23 quirements for such training after consultation with
24 State or local pilotage authorities on specific equip-
25 ment and practices in the waters designated in the
26 regulation.

1 “(b) DETERMINATION OF NEED.—The Commandant
2 shall consult with State or local pilotage authorities for
3 the waters covered by the regulations to determine if the
4 carriage and use of such portable electronic devices would
5 improve safe navigation under local conditions and wheth-
6 er there is a need for mandatory carriage requirements.

7 “(c) COVERED VESSEL DEFINED.—In this section
8 the term ‘covered vessel’ means a self-propelled commer-
9 cial vessel of 300 gross tons or more that does not have
10 an electronic chart prescribed under section 4A.”.

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